

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
EB-07 /076 W
-----210528Z 122040 /23-11

R 201029Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3297
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN
SUBJ: RAISING THE ANTE IN THE FARAKKA TALKS?

REF: DACCA 0272

1. THE JANUARY 19 ISSUE OF ITTEFAQ, THE LEADING BENGALI-LANGUAGE DAILY, CARRIED A FARAKKA STORY WHICH ASSUMED AN IMPATIENT TONE AND RAISED A NEW POINT IN THE CONTINUING DISPUTE. THE STORY, NO DOUBT INSPIRED BY THE BDG AND CARRIED ALMOST VERBATIM THE FOLLOWING DAY IN THE ENGLISH PRESS, STRESSED THAT THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS, SLATED TO RESUME IN DELHI JANUARY 21, MUST LEAD TO AN EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT, BUT A "50/50 FORMULA WILL NOT HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM." THE ISSUE AT STAKE IS "SIMPLE." IT IS THAT "ONE SIDE IS TRYING APPARENTLY TO SHORE UP A DYING PORT -- A PORT THAT HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO ITS OWN DELIBERATE NEGLECT OVER THE YEARS." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, DIVERTING WATER TO THE HOOGLY RIVER WILL NEVER SOLVE THE PROBLEM BUT WILL ONLY INCREASE THE SILTING IN CALCUTTA PORT. IN
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FACT SO THE REPORT SAYS, THE MORE WATER DIVERTED, THE GREATER WILL BE THE SILTING.

2. COMMENT: GLOOMY TONES OF PRESS PARTICLES ACCURATELY REFLECTS BOTH PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL FEELINGS HERE THAT EARLY SETTLEMENT ON FARAKKA IS NOT LIKELY. IN COMMENTS TO POL COUNSELOR JANUARY 19 EDITOR OF BOTH

BANGLADESH TIMES AND ITTEFAQ EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SETTLEMENT DURING INDIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN MIGHT BE DIFFICULT ESPECIALLY WITH PRESSURE ON CONGRESS IN WEST BENGAL. PUBLICATION PRIMARILY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS MAY INDICATE BDG IS ALERTING DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT FAILURE IS QUITE POSSIBLE AND INTERNATIONAL APPEAL WILL BE RENEWED. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FARAKKA BARRAGE, WATER RIGHTS, WATER DIVERSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN
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